

## Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 EB-11 DRC-01 /148 W

----- 011412

R 131147Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9846

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0965

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GY, US

SUBJECT: GUYANA FOREIGN MINISTER LEADING CANDIDATE FOR COMMONWEALTH  
SECRETARY GENERAL

1. EMBOFF WAS SHOWN COPY OF LETTER DATED JUNE 11  
WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN SENT BY GUYANA HIGH COMMISSIONER  
IN LONDON TO HIS COMMONWEALTH COLLEAGUES PROPOSING  
GUYANA FOREIGN MINISTER RAMPHAL AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF  
THE COMMONWEALTH UPON EXPIRATION OF TERM OF CANADIAN  
INCUMBENT, REPORTEDLY JUNE 1975. LETTER SOLICITED  
SUPPORT AND INDICATED RAMPHAL WANTED JOB.

2. LOCAL BRITISH HICOM OFFICER INDICATED THIS FORMAL  
PROPOSAL RESULTS FROM PRELIMINARY CANVASSING BY GUYANA  
WHICH SHOWED RAMPHAL COULD PROBABLY GET THE JOB, THOUGH  
THERE WAS POSSIBILITY CANADA MIGHT PUSH FOR RE-ELECTION  
OF INCUMBENT. SAME SOURCE SPECULATED RAMPHAL SAW  
COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERALSHIP AS STEP ON ROAD  
TO EVENTUAL GOAL OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL.

COMMENT: 3. WE UNDERSTAND COMMONWEALTH SEC GEN IS FULL-  
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TIME POSITION REQUIRING RESIDENCE IN LONDON AND RELIN-

QUISHMENT BY RAMPHAL OF PRESENT FONMIN JOB. AS DEPT AWARE, RAMPHAL GOT INTO PM BURNHAM'S DOG HOUSE RECENTLY OVER INABILITY TO NEGOTIATED FAVORED TREATMENT FROM OPEC FOR GUYANA'S PETROLEUM REQUIREMENTS. RAMPHAL HIMSELF HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR (AND OTHERS ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION) THAT HE FEELS HE MAY HAVE REACHED POINT OF DIMINISHING RETURNS IN FONMIN ROLE AFTER NINE YEARS. MOREOVER, RAMPHAL IS IN DELICATE POSITION AS MOST PROMINENT EAST INDIAN IN ESSENTIALLY AFRICAN-ORIENTED AND SUPPORTED REGIME. HE LAID PERSONAL PRESTIGE ON LINE OVER CONTROVERSIAL COMPULSORY ASPECT OF BURNHAM'S PET NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME. HE MAY BE AFRAID THAT SAME ISSUE WILL ARISE AGAIN WHEN NATIONAL SERVICE BILL GOES BEFORE PARLIAMENT THIS MONTH, AND THAT IN PUBLIC CONFRONTATION ON THIS QUESTION BURNHAM WOULD BE FORCED TO TAKE UNCOMPROMISING STAND, LEAVING RAMPHAL TO BITE BULLET OR RESIGN FROM GOVERNMENT AND SACRIFICE WHAT LITTLE REMAINS OF CHANCE OF RACIAL HARMONY. WITH COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT JOB IN PICTURE, RAMPHAL WILL HAVE MORE OPTIONS IN DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE.

4. RAMPHAL'S DEPARTURE FROM GOG WILL ALSO HAVE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON BILATERAL USG-GOG RELATIONS. HE HAS MAINTAINED CONSISTENTLY "OPEN" ATTITUDE TOWARDS US AND HAS BEEN PRINCIPAL GOG INTERLOCUTOR WITH EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT. AMONG PRESENT CABINET THERE ARE NO FIGURES OF HIS STATURE WITH WHOM US CAN EXPECT TO DEAL AS FRANKLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY. WE SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO CAPITALIZE TO MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE DURING TIME HE REMAINS IN OFFICE ON RAMPHAL'S INITIATIVE TO "REVERSE THE DRIFT APART" IN USG-GOG RELATIONS WHICH WAS MAJOR TOPIC OF HIS INITIAL CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 29 (SEE GEORGETOWN 0662(NOTAL)). KREBS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 JUN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1974GEORGE00965  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUYANA FOREIGN MINISTER LEADING CANDIDATE FOR COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, GY, US, (RAMPHAL, SHRIDATH SONNY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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